

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A media browsing system, comprising:
 - a media display component adapted to display media and at least one thumbnail image related to the media; and,
 - a media delivery system coupled to the media display component, the media delivery system adapted to provide the media and the at least one thumbnail image related to the media to the media display component, the media delivery system further adapted to modify the media sent to the media display component based at least in part upon selection of one of the at least one thumbnail image related to the media.
2. The media browsing system of claim 1, the media being time-based.
3. The media browsing system of claim 1, the number of thumbnail images being based, at least in part, upon at least one of a user's selection, a user's preference and analysis of the media by the media delivery system.
4. The media browsing system of claim 1, the number of thumbnail images being based, at least in part, upon at least one of a display area available associated with the media display component, an amount of the media already displayed and an amount of the media remaining to be displayed.
5. The media browsing system of claim 1, further comprising a media store storing a plurality of media, the media store coupled to the media delivery system.
6. The media browsing system of claim 5, the media store comprising at least one of a hard disc, a CD, a DVD and a videotape.
7. The media browsing system of claim 1, further comprising a thumbnail selection component adapted to facilitate a user's selection of the at least one thumbnail image related to the media.

8. The media browsing system of claim 7, the thumbnail selection component further comprising at least one of a remote control, a touch screen, a mouse and a joystick.
9. The media browsing system of claim 1, the media being based on at least one of a television broadcast, a cable television broadcast, a video stream and an audio stream.
10. The media browsing system of claim 1, the media display component and the media delivery system coupled by at least one of a parallel electrical connection, a serial electrical connection, a cable television connection, a satellite connection, a computer network connection, an Internet connection, a Digital Subscriber Line, a telephone line, a cable modem, a wireless data communications link and an integrated services digital network.
11. The media browsing system of claim 1, the media display component further comprising at least one of a television screen, a computer monitor and a touch screen.
12. A media delivery system, comprising:
 - a media analyzer adapted to receive a media input, the media analyzer further adapted to analyze content of the media;
 - a thumbnail generator adapted to generate at least one thumbnail image related to the media input based, at least in part, upon information regarding the content of the media input received from the media analyzer; and,
 - a media player adapted to provide an output based, at least in part, upon the at least one thumbnail image received from the thumbnail generator and the media input.
13. The media delivery system of claim 12, the thumbnail generator further adapted to generate the at least one thumbnail image based, at least in part, upon at least one of a user's preference and a system default.

14. The media delivery system of claim 12, analysis of the media analyzer being based, at least in part, upon at least one of a user's preference, a scene change and a shot boundary.
15. The media delivery system of claim 12, the media analyzer utilizing a Bayesian decision making methodology.
16. The media delivery system of claim 12, the media analyzer further storing at least one of historical information and demographic information regarding a user.
17. A media browsing system, comprising:
 - a media delivery system having a media analyzer adapted to receive a media input, the media analyzer further adapted to analyze content of the media, the media delivery system further including a thumbnail generator adapted to generate at least one thumbnail image related to the media input based, at least in part, upon information regarding the content of the media input received from the media analyzer, the media delivery system further comprising a media player adapted to provide an output based, at least in part, upon the at least one thumbnail image received from the thumbnail generator and the media input; and
 - a media display component to display media and the at least one thumbnail image related to the media received from the media delivery system.
18. The media browsing system of claim 17, further comprising a media store storing a plurality of media, the media store coupled to the media delivery system by at least one of a parallel electrical connection, a serial electrical connection, a cable television connection, a satellite connection, a computer network connection, an Internet connection, a Digital Subscriber Line, a telephone line, a cable modem, a wireless data communications link and an integrated services digital network.
19. The media browsing system of claim 17, the media display component coupled to the media delivery system by at least one of a parallel electrical connection, a serial

electrical connection, a cable television connection, a satellite connection, a computer network connection, an Internet connection, a Digital Subscriber Line, a telephone line, a cable modem, a wireless data communications link and an integrated services digital network.

20. A distributed media browsing system, comprising:
 - a media display component adapted to display media and at least one thumbnail image related to the media;
 - a client-side media delivery system coupled to the media display component, the client-side media delivery system further adapted to provide the media and the at least one thumbnail image related to the media to the media display component;
 - a host-side media delivery system coupled to the client-side media delivery system;
 - a media store storing a plurality of media, the media store coupled to the host-end media delivery system,
 - at least one of the client-side media delivery system and the host-side media delivery system adapted to generate the at least one thumbnail image related to the media, at least one of the host-side media delivery system and the client-side media delivery system further adapted to modify the media sent to the media display component based at least in part upon selection of one of the at least one thumbnail image related to the media.

21. A streaming media browsing system, comprising:
 - a media delivery system having a media analyzer adapted to receive a streaming media input, the media analyzer further adapted to analyze content of the streaming media, the media delivery system further including a thumbnail generator adapted to generate at least one thumbnail image related to the streaming media input based, at least in part, upon information regarding the content of the streaming media input received from the media analyzer, the media delivery system further comprising a media player adapted to provide an output based, at least in part, upon the at least one thumbnail image received from the thumbnail generator and the streaming media input; and

a media display component to display the streaming media and the at least one thumbnail image related to the streaming media received from the media delivery system.

22. A method for generating thumbnails facilitating media browsing, comprising:
 - analyzing media;
 - generating a thumbnail image based at least in part upon analysis of the media;
 - and,
 - displaying the thumbnail image.
23. The method of claim 22, generating the thumbnail image further based at least in part upon at least one of a user's preference and a system default.
24. A method for utilizing thumbnails facilitating media browsing, comprising:
 - displaying media;
 - displaying at least one thumbnail image associated with the media;
 - determining whether a particular thumbnail image has been selected; and,
 - displaying media at about the selected thumbnail image, if it is determined that a particular thumbnail image has been selected.
25. A data packet adapted to be transmitted between two or more computer processes, the data packet comprising:
 - information associated with a media input; and,
 - information associated with at least one thumbnail image related to the media input.
26. A computer readable medium having computer usable components for a media delivery system, comprising:
 - a media analyzer adapted to receive a media input, the media analyzer further adapted to analyze content of the media; and,

a thumbnail generator adapted to generate at least one thumbnail image related to the media input based, at least in part, upon information regarding the content of the media input received from the media analyzer.

27. A media browsing system, comprising:

means for displaying media and at least one thumbnail image related to the media; and,

means for delivering media coupled to the means for displaying media, the means for delivering media adapted to provide the media and the at least one thumbnail image related to the media to the means for displaying media, the means for delivering media further adapted to modify the media sent to the means for displaying media based at least in part upon selection of one of the at least one thumbnail image related to the media.